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COMMITTEE ON THE ELIMINATION OF
DISCRIMINATION AGAINST WOMEN
Seventeenth session
7-25 July 1997

PROVISIONAL AGENDA

1. Opening of the session.

2. Solemn declaration by the new member of the Committee.

3. Adoption of the agenda and organization of work.

4. Report of the Chairperson on activities undertaken between the sixteenth and seventeenth sessions of the Committee.

5. Consideration of reports submitted by States parties under article 18 of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women.

6. Implementation of article 21 of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women.

7. Ways and means of expediting the work of the Committee.

8. Provisional agenda for the eighteenth session.

9. Adoption of the report of the Committee on its seventeenth session.

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ANNOTATIONS

Item 1. Opening of the session

The seventeenth session of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women will be opened by the representative of the Secretary-General.

Item 2. Solemn declaration by the new member of the Committee, who was not able to attend in January

According to rule 10 of the rules of procedure of the Committee, new members of the Committee shall make the solemn declaration contained in that rule.

Item 3. Adoption of the agenda and organization of work

Rule 7 of the rules of procedure provides that the agenda shall be adopted by the Committee at the beginning of its meetings. Rule 5 provides that the provisional agenda for each session shall be prepared by the Secretary-General in consultation with the Chairperson, in conformity with the relevant provisions of articles 17 to 22 of the Convention, giving priority to any item the inclusion of which was decided at a previous session of the Committee.

At its sixteenth session, the Committee approved the provisional agenda for its seventeenth session.

The Committee has, since its sixth session, set up two standing working groups: Working Group I, to consider and suggest ways and means of expediting the work of the Committee; and Working Group II, to consider ways and means of implementing article 21 of the Convention. At its seventh session, the Committee decided to keep the membership of the working groups flexible. At its eleventh session, the Committee decided that the working groups should be open only to members of the Committee, in accordance with past practice. Specialized agencies and other bodies that could make substantive contributions to questions under consideration by a working group could be invited by the working group to contribute to its deliberations. The working groups will meet during the session.

The proposed organization of work for the session is shown in the annex to the present document.

Documentation

Provisional agenda and annotations (CEDAW/C/1997/II/1)

Item 4. Report of the Chairperson on activities undertaken between the sixteenth and seventeenth sessions of the Committee

The Committee, at its twelfth session, decided to include an item that would permit the Chairperson to brief the Committee on activities and events since the previous session that had a bearing on the Committee's work.

On behalf of the Committee, the Chairperson attended the forty-first session of the Commission on the Status of Women and other meetings related to the work of the Committee. In addition, Ms. Silvia Cartwright, a member of the Committee, participated, as a resource person, in the deliberations of the open-ended working group of the Commission on the Status of Women on the elaboration of a draft optional protocol to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women.

Item 5. Consideration of reports submitted by States parties under article 18 of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women

Article 18 of the Convention provides that States parties to the Convention shall undertake to submit to the Secretary-General, for consideration by the Committee, a report on the legislative, judicial, administrative or other measures which they have adopted to give effect to the provisions of the Convention and on the progress made in this respect. Reports are to be submitted within one year after the entry into force for the State concerned and thereafter at least every four years and further whenever the Committee so requests.

At its eleventh session, the Committee decided that reports would be selected for consideration on the basis of the date on which they had been received. In the event that a State party to the Convention did not wish to present a report, the Secretariat was authorized to select the report of another State party from the reserve list, also in the order of the date on which the report had been received.

At its sixteenth session, the Committee, taking into account the criteria of preference to be given to those States parties whose reports had been pending for the longest time, the need to give priority to initial reports and the desirability of a balance of reports in terms of geographic and other factors, decided to consider at its seventeenth session a total of 10 reports of States parties. One State party - the Dominican Republic - did not confirm that it would present its report. It was therefore decided that the total number of States parties' reports to be considered at the seventeenth session would be nine.

The third report of Italy (CEDAW/C/ITA/3) was received by the Secretary-General in June 1997. The Committee will need to decide whether it will waive the general rule requiring the simultaneous release of official documents in all official languages of the United Nations, and consider the original English version.

At its seventeenth session the Committee will have before it the following reports: the initial reports of Armenia (CEDAW/C/ARM/1 and Corr.1) and Namibia (CEDAW/C/NAM/1); the initial and second reports of Luxembourg (CEDAW/C/LUX/1 and CEDAW/C/LUX/2); the combined initial and second reports of Israel (CEDAW/C/ISR/1-2); the combined initial, second and third reports of Antigua and Barbuda (CEDAW/C/ANT/1-3); the second and third reports of Argentina (CEDAW/C/ARG/2 and Add.1 and 2 and CEDAW/C/ARG/3); the second report of Italy (CEDAW/C/ITA/2); the third report of Australia (CEDAW/C/AUL/3) and the combined third and fourth reports of Bangladesh (CEDAW/C/BGD/3-4).

A tentative timetable for the consideration by the Committee of the reports of States parties is given in the proposed organization of work (see annex).

Rule 49 of the rules of procedure provides that representatives of the States parties shall be present at meetings of the Committee when the State party's report is being examined, and shall participate in discussions and answer questions concerning the report. The Secretary-General has informed the States parties concerned of the tentative dates on which their reports are scheduled for consideration by the Committee at its seventeenth session.

Rule 47 of the rules of procedure provides that at each session the Secretary-General shall notify the Committee of the non-receipt of any report required from a State party under article 18 of the Convention. The Secretary-General also provides the Committee with a list of reports submitted by States parties to the Convention that have not yet been considered by the Committee. The Committee at its seventeenth session will have before it the report of the Secretary-General on the status of submission of reports by States parties under article 18 of the Convention (CEDAW/C/1997/II/2).

The Committee decided at its ninth session that a pre-session working group should be convened before each session to prepare questions relating to second and subsequent periodic reports for transmission to the representatives of States parties before the meetings at which their reports were to be considered. The pre-session working group for the seventeenth session is scheduled to meet in New York from 30 June to 3 July 1997.

Documentation

Report of the Secretary-General on the status of submission of reports by States parties under article 18 of the Convention (CEDAW/C/1997/II/2)

Initial report of Armenia (CEDAW/C/ARM/1 and Corr.1)

Initial report of Namibia (CEDAW/C/NAM/1)

Initial and second periodic reports of Luxembourg (CEDAW/C/LUX/1 and CEDAW/C/LUX/2)

Combined initial and second periodic reports of Israel (CEDAW/C/ISR/1-2)

Combined initial, second and third periodic reports of Antigua and Barbuda (CEDAW/C/ANT/1-3)

Second and third periodic reports of Argentina (CEDAW/C/ARG/2 and Add.1 and 2 and CEDAW/C/ARG/3)

Second periodic report of Italy (CEDAW/C/ITA/2)

Third periodic report of Australia (CEDAW/C/AUL/3)

Combined third and fourth periodic reports of Bangladesh (CEDAW/C/BGD/3-4)

Item 6. Implementation of article 21 of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women

Article 21 of the Convention provides that the Committee may make suggestions and general recommendations based on the examination of reports and information received from States parties. It also provides that such suggestions and general recommendations shall be included in the report of the Committee together with comments, if any, from States parties. Rule 48 of the rules of procedure provides that those suggestions and general recommendations shall be communicated by the Committee, through the Secretary-General, to the States parties for their comments.

Article 22 of the Convention provides that the specialized agencies shall be entitled to be represented at the consideration of the implementation of such provisions of the Convention as fall within the scope of their activities and that the Committee may invite the specialized agencies to submit reports on the implementation of the Convention in those areas. The Committee at its seventeenth session will have before it a note by the Secretary-General on reports of specialized agencies on that subject (CEDAW/C/1997/II/3 and Add.1-4).

At its tenth session, the Committee decided to provide, under the agenda item entitled "Implementation of article 21 of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women", opportunities for specialists from the specialized agencies and other United Nations bodies to present to the Committee in plenary information related to specific articles of the Convention or to issues being considered for general recommendations and suggestions.

At the same session, the Committee decided to select and to review specific articles and other issues to be considered at subsequent sessions as a long-term programme, without prejudice to any changes that might be necessary as a result of new developments and priorities arising from the review of the reports of States parties.

At its sixteenth session, the Committee adopted a general recommendation on articles 7 and 8 of the Convention on women in public life, and authorized Ms. Silvia Cartwright, in conjunction with the Secretariat, to edit the text in order that it could be processed in final form for inclusion in the report of the Committee on its seventeenth session. The final edited text of this document is contained in document CEDAW/C/1997/II/5.

Documentation

Note by the Secretary-General on reports of specialized agencies on the implementation of the Convention in areas falling within the scope of their activities (CEDAW/C/1997/II/3)

Report of the World Health Organization (CEDAW/C/1997/II/3/Add.1)

Report of the International Labour Organization (CEDAW/C/1997/II/3/Add.2)

Report of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (CEDAW/C/1997/II/3/Add.3)

Report of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (CEDAW/C/1997/II/3/Add.4)

General recommendation on articles 7 and 8 (CEDAW/C/1997/II/5)

Item 7. Ways and means of expediting the work of the Committee

The Committee, at its twelfth session, decided that the Secretariat should prepare every year, as a pre-session document, a report on ways and means of improving the work of the Committee, containing information provided by the Secretariat, comments made by members of the Committee or developments elsewhere in the human rights regime. In view of the fact that the Committee has been authorized to hold two sessions annually, the Secretariat has decided to provide the Committee with a report on ways and means at each session.

At its seventeenth session, the Committee will have before it a report of the Secretariat on ways and means of expediting the work of the Committee (CEDAW/C/1997/II/4).

The Committee also decided to continue, at its seventeenth session, its review of the rules of procedure, and requested a member of the Committee to update the rules of procedure in order to continue its consideration of the revisions to rules which took place at the sixteenth session. The Committee will have before it a working paper containing the draft rules of procedure (CEDAW/C/1997/WG.I/WP.1).

Documentation

Report of the Secretariat on ways and means of improving the work of the Committee (CEDAW/C/1997/II/4)

Working paper containing the draft rules of procedure (CEDAW/C/1997/WG.I/WP.1)

Item 8. Provisional agenda for the eighteenth session

At its tenth session, the Committee decided that the draft provisional agenda for the following session of the Committee would be approved at the end of each session. It also decided that at each session:

(a) It would set a programme for the following two or three sessions which could be reviewed and amended at each subsequent session;

(b) It would select one or more articles or subjects for study;

(c) The Secretariat would prepare a background report as a pre-session document to be considered by the Committee in its examination of the articles or subjects concerned.

Documentation

Draft provisional agenda for the eighteenth session of the Committee

Item 9. Adoption of the report of the Committee on its seventeenth session

Under article 21 of the Convention, the Committee shall, through the Economic and Social Council, report annually to the General Assembly on its activities.

ANNEX

Proposed organization of work

Date		Agenda item
Monday, 7 July 1997		
334th meeting 10 a.m.	Item 1	Opening of the session
	Item 2	Solemn declaration by the new member of the Committee
	Item 3	Adoption of the agenda and organization of work
		Composition of Working Groups I and II, mandate for Working Groups I and II
	Item 4	Report of the Chairperson on activities undertaken between the sixteenth and seventeenth sessions of the Committee
335th meeting 3 p.m.	Item 6	Implementation of article 21 of the Convention
		Specialized agencies and other United Nations entities
	Item 7	Ways and means of expediting the work of the Committee
		Working Groups I and II
Tuesday, 8 July 1997		
336th meeting 10 a.m.	Item 5	Consideration of reports submitted by States parties
		Namibia, initial report (CEDAW/C/NAM/1)
		Introduction by State party's representative

Note. The rooms in which meetings will take place will be indicated in the daily Journal.

Date		Agenda item
337th meeting 3 p.m.	Item 5	Consideration of reports submitted by States parties (continued) Namibia, initial report (CEDAW/C/NAM/1) (continued) Questions by experts
	Items 6 and 7	Working Groups I and II (continued)
Wednesday, 9 July 1997		
338th meeting 10 a.m.	Item 5	Consideration of reports submitted by States parties (continued) Luxembourg, initial and second periodic reports (CEDAW/C/LUX/1 and CEDAW/C/LUX/2) Introduction by State party's representative
339th meeting 3 p.m.	Item 5	Consideration of reports submitted by States parties (continued) Luxembourg, initial and second periodic reports (CEDAW/C/LUX/1 and CEDAW/C/LUX/2) (continued) Questions by experts
	Items 6 and 7	Working Groups I and II (continued)
Thursday, 10 July 1997		
340th meeting 10 a.m.	Item 5	Consideration of reports submitted by States parties (continued) Antigua and Barbuda, combined initial, second and third periodic reports (CEDAW/C/ANT/1-3) Introduction by State party's representative

Date		Agenda item
341st meeting 3 p.m.	Item 5	Consideration of reports submitted by States parties (continued) Antigua and Barbuda, combined initial, second and third periodic reports (CEDAW/C/ANT/1-3) (continued) Questions by experts
	Items 6 and 7	Working Groups I and II (continued)
Friday, 11 July 1997		
342nd meeting 10 a.m.	Item 5	Consideration of reports submitted by States parties (continued) Replies (Namibia)
343rd meeting 3 p.m.	Item 5	Consideration of reports submitted by States parties (continued) Replies (Luxembourg)
	Items 6 and 7	Working Groups I and II (continued)
Monday, 14 July 1997		
344th meeting 10 a.m.	Item 5	Consideration of reports submitted by States parties (continued) Armenia, initial report (CEDAW/C/ARM/1 and CEDAW/C/ARM/1/Corr.1) Introduction by State party's representative
345th meeting 3 p.m.	Item 5	Consideration of reports submitted by States parties (continued) Armenia, initial report (CEDAW/C/ARM/1 and CEDAW/C/ARM/1/Corr.1) (continued) Questions by experts
	Items 6 and 7	Working Groups I and II (continued)

Date		Agenda item
Tuesday, 15 July 1997		
346th meeting 10 a.m.	Item 5	Consideration of reports submitted by States parties (continued) Italy, second periodic report (CEDAW/C/ITA/2) Introduction by State party's representative and replies to questions posed by experts
347th meeting 3 p.m.	Item 5	Consideration of reports submitted by States parties (continued) Italy, second periodic report (CEDAW/C/ITA/2) (continued)
	Item 5	Working Group of the Whole
Wednesday, 16 July 1997		
348th meeting 10 a.m.	Item 6	Consideration of reports submitted by States parties (continued) Replies (Antigua and Barbuda)
349th meeting 3 p.m.	Item 6	Consideration of reports submitted by States parties (continued) Replies (Armenia)
Thursday, 17 July 1997		
350th meeting 10 a.m.	Item 5	Consideration of reports submitted by States parties (continued) Israel, combined initial and second periodic reports (CEDAW/C/ISR/1-2) Introduction by State party's representative
351st meeting 3 p.m.	Item 5	Consideration of reports submitted by States parties (continued) Israel, combined initial and second periodic reports (CEDAW/C/ISR/1-2) (continued)

Date		Agenda item
		Questions by experts
	Items 6 and 7	Working Groups I and II (continued)
Friday, 18 July 1997		
352nd meeting 10 a.m.	Item 5	Consideration of reports submitted by States parties (continued) Australia, third periodic report (CEDAW/C/AUL/3) Introduction by State party's representative
353rd meeting 3 p.m.	Item 5	Consideration of reports submitted by States parties (continued) Australia, third periodic report (CEDAW/C/AUL/3) (continued) Questions by experts
	Items 6 and 7	Working Groups I and II (continued)
Monday, 21 July 1997		
354th meeting 10 a.m.	Item 5	Consideration of reports submitted by States parties (continued) Replies (Israel)
3 p.m.	Items 5 and 7	Working Group of the Whole on rules of procedure and concluding comments
Tuesday, 22 July 1997		
355th meeting 10 a.m.	Item 5	Consideration of reports submitted by States parties (continued) Argentina, second and third periodic reports (CEDAW/C/ARG/2 and Add.1 and 2 and CEDAW/C/ARG/3) Introduction by State party's representative

Date		Agenda item
356th meeting 3 p.m.	Item 5	Consideration of reports submitted by States parties (continued) Argentina, second and third periodic reports (CEDAW/C/ARG/2 and Add.1 and 2 and CEDAW/C/ARG/3) (continued) Questions by experts
	Items 6 and 7	Working Groups I and II (continued)
Wednesday, 23 July 1997		
357th meeting 10 a.m.	Item 5	Consideration of reports submitted by States parties (continued) Bangladesh, combined third and fourth periodic reports (CEDAW/C/BGD/3-4) Introduction by State party's representative
358th meeting 3 p.m.	Item 5	Consideration of reports submitted by States parties (continued) Bangladesh, combined third and fourth periodic reports (CEDAW/C/BGD/3-4) (continued) Questions by experts
	Item 5	Working Group of the Whole on concluding comments
Thursday, 24 July 1997		
10 a.m.	Item 5	Working Group of the Whole
3 p.m.	Item 5	Working Group of the Whole
Friday, 25 July 1997		
359th meeting 10 a.m.	Item 6	Report of Working Group II
	Item 7	Report of Working Group I

Date		Agenda item
	Item 8	Draft provisional agenda for the eighteenth session
	Item 5	Working Group of the Whole
360th meeting 3 p.m.	Item 9	Adoption of the report